



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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January 17, 2017

(Corrections made on January 19, 2017 to the school years in items 1 and 2)

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads

FROM: Peter Shulman, Deputy Commissioner

SUBJECT: Clarification on the High School Graduation Assessment Requirement
for Classes of 2020 and 2021

This memo provides clarification on the high school graduation mathematics assessment requirements available for **students who took an Algebra I course prior to the September 6, 2016 effective date** of the new high school assessment regulations.

Last year, a number of students in the cohort Classes of 2020 and 2021 were enrolled in an Algebra I course before the regulations for the new high school graduation assessment requirements went into effect on September 6, 2016. Some of these students took the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Algebra I assessment and were deemed “meeting or exceeding expectations” and have met the mathematics assessment graduation requirement. However, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is providing options to the other students who fall into three specific groups:

1. Students who took an Algebra I course during the 2015-16 school year, and took the PARCC Algebra I assessment but did not pass, and are now in an advanced mathematics course (e.g., Geometry or Algebra II);
2. Students who took an Algebra I course during the 2015-16 school year, and did not receive a valid test score, and are now in an advanced mathematics course (e.g., Geometry or Algebra II);
or
3. Students who took an Algebra I course over the summer in 2016, and did not have the opportunity to take the PARCC Algebra I assessment because the NJDOE did not offer a summer test administration, and are now in an advanced mathematics course (e.g., Geometry or Algebra II).

Based on direct feedback from school educators and administrators, the NJDOE is providing flexibility for the small group of students who have not met the assessment graduation requirement by offering them **three pathways** to meet their high school graduation mathematics assessment requirement. **Only students described in the three specific groups above are eligible to utilize all three pathways.**

The three pathways that these specific Class of 2020 and 2021 students can choose from are as follows:

- Take or retake the PARCC Algebra I assessment and pass;
- Utilize the NJDOE portfolio appeals process, provided they take the PARCC Geometry assessment and the PARCC Algebra II assessment (if enrolled in an Algebra II course); or
- Take *and* pass the Geometry or Algebra II assessment.

The students **need to complete only one of the above three pathways** in order to meet their high school graduation mathematics assessment requirement.

Moving forward, the NJDOE will be examining whether any other small groups of students in the cohort Classes of 2022 and beyond may have taken an Algebra I course before the September 6, 2016 effective date of the regulations, and thus, may also be eligible for these three pathways.

The NJDOE continues to work with districts to identify areas in need of clarification. Any further guidance on specific areas will be in future NJDOE Broadcast memos.

PS/JBH

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